



The Point:

Guard against Self-Sufficiency, Glory in your Savior

The Outline:

- What it means to be the circumcision
 - worship by the Spirit
 - glory in Christ
 - no confidence in the flesh
- Counting it loss
- Being 'In Him'
- Rejoicing in Christ

RELATE:

-If there was no gospel, and you had to stand before God and outweigh all of your sins with one good deed in your life... what would you point to? (prompt them to think about their volunteering, giving, general helpful attitude, etc.)

REFLECT:

-Read John 4:24, Romans 8:3-4, Galatians 5:16, 25. What do you think it means to worship by the Spirit? How would this contrast with what others were doing in Paul's day? How does this contrast with what some do in our own day?

-Explain how you think of 'glorying in Christ'.

-Confidence in the flesh was the point of last week's sermon. In one sentence, sum up what it means to have confidence in the flesh.

-What was circumcision in the Old Testament? How did people begin to wrongly view this rite by Paul's time?

-Paul mentions the 'knowledge of Christ'. If you were speaking with someone trying to share Christ, and they said 'Oh, yeah I know about Jesus... I took a western religions class in college. I thought his life and teachings were fascinating.' how would you respond?



- As Paul speaks of counting all things loss, and 'rubbish', is this a one time action or an ongoing process?
- Practically, how would people in our church community 'count things loss' for the sake of Christ?
- Look at Mark 8:34-38, and Luke 9:23-26. Do you see any differences in the two passages? What are they? What does Jesus mean here by 'losing life'? How does this connect with what Paul is saying in Philippians 3?
- What does it mean to be 'in Christ'? How would you explain it to a non-believer?
- How was the concept of 'Justification' explained in the sermon? How does this help us understand what God has done in Christ?
- How could the truth of justification change a person's self-perception and identity?
- The sermon ended on Philippians 3:1. Why is this significant?

RESPOND:

- Thank God for providing a righteous standing that we could never obtain on our own
- Ask God to help you focus on the work of Christ daily
- Pray that God would empower you to serve others because of your salvation, instead of an effort to earn your salvation
- Pray for those who are not 'in Christ' whom God has put in your life
- Local Focus: Pray for Life Roads church and their pastor Donnie Johnson. Life Roads is ministering in the East Central neighborhood of Spokane. Pray that they would have wisdom in reaching their neighborhood for Christ.